

Message Text

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21

ACTION EUR-12

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EINV, CA

SUBJECT: FUTURE OF WESTINGHOUSE APPLIANCE OPERATIONS IN CANADA

REF: OTTAWA A-660, OCT. 24, 1975

1. DURING QUESTION PERIOD IN PARLIAMENT IN PAST TWO WEEKS, OPPOSITION MPS HAVE QUERIED LABOR MINISTER MUNRO AND ITC MINISTER JAMIESON ON FUTURE STATUS OF WESTINGHOUSE CANADA APPLIANCE DIVISION, EMPHASIS IN QUESTIONS WAS ON GOC ACTIONS TO SAFEGUARD JOBS FOR CANADIAN WORKERS.

2. GNERAL THRUST OF ANSWERS BY MUNRO AND PARTICULARLY JAMIESON WAS THAT GOC WAS CLOSELY MONITORING SITUATION AND JAMIESON INTIMATED GOC WAS INSTRUMENTAL IN PROLONGING EXPIRATION DATE OF ALTERNATE BID BY GSW, LTD., TORONTO, TO ACQUIRE WESTINGHOUSE DIVISION.

3. AFTER REPORT IN LOCAL NESPAPERS ON NOVEMBER 15 THAT WCI WAS SUING WESTINGHOUSE IN U.S. OVER USE OF WESTINGHOUSE TRADEMARK IN CANADA, MPS BEGAN ASKING JAMIESON IF FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW AGENCY COULD OR WOULD RESCIND ITS ORIGINAL REFUSAL OF WCI PROPOSAL FOR TAKEOVER.

4. FOLLOWING ECHANGE TOOK PLACE IN PARLIAMENT ON NOVEMBER 19:

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BEGIN QUOTE. MR. BILL KEMPLING (HALTON-WENTWORTH):
MR. SPEAKER, I HAVE A QUESTION FOR THE MINISTER OF
INDUSTRY, TRADE AND COMMERCE. IN VIEW OF THE FACT
THAT THE MINISTER HAS HAD CONVEYED TO HIM BY THE MINISTER
OF LABOUR THE CONCERN OF THE UNION LEADERS AT WESTING-
HOUSE CANADA IN HAMILTON AND HAS INDICATED HE WILL MEET
WITH THE UNION OFFICIALS TO ASSURE THEM, AS BEST HE
CAN, OF THE SECURITY OF THEIR JOBS, WHAT ONGOING ACTION
IS THE MINISTER TAKING TO RESOLVE THIS MATTER, BEARING
IN MIND THAT IF THE DELICATE MATTER OF THE USE OF THE
NAME WESTINGHOUSE IN CANADA IS NOT CLEARED WITH
CONSIDERABLE SPEED, THERE WILL BE SERIOUS EROSION IN
THE LEVEL OF ORDERS ON THE BOOKS OF WESTINGHOUSE, AND
IT MAY LOSE SOME OF ITS VERY EXPERT KEY PERSONNEL?
HON. DONALD C. JAMIESON (MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TRADE
AND COMMERCE): MR. SPEAKER, ONCE AGAIN I MUST REMIND
THE HON. MEMBER THAT HIS USE OF THE WORD "DELICATE"
EMPHASIZES WHY I MUST ANSWER WITH EXTREME CAUTION IN
THIS CASE. ON THE MATTER OF THE RELATIONSHIP WITH
THE UNION, AS REFERRED TO IN MY ANSWER THE OTHER DAY,
WE HAVE BEEN IN TOUCH WITH THEM THIS MORNING AND
INDICATED THAT WE WILL MEET WITH THEM- THAT IS, I, MY
OFFICIALS AND ANY OTHERS WHO MAY BE INVOLVED -AT A TIME
WHEN SUCH TALKS MIGHT PROVE TO BE PRODUCTIVE, BUT THAT
MAY NOT BE FOR A MATTER OF TWO OR THREE DAYS BECAUSE
TO THE BEST OF MY KNOWLEDGE NEGOTIATIONS AND TALKS
BETWEEN THE INTERESTED PARTIES ARE STILL CONTINUING.
MR. BILL KEMPLING (HALTON-WENTWORTH): THE MINISTER
INDICATED MONDAY THAT A NEW APPLICATION COULD BE MADE
TO THE FOREIGN INVESTMENT REVIEW AGENCY BY THE PARTIES
INVOLVED IN THIS MATTER. CAN THE MINISTER INDICATE THAT
IF AN APPLICATION WERE MADE, IT WOULD BE GIVEN PRIORITY
STATUS BEFORE THE AGENCY IN AN EFFORT TO RESOLVE THIS
MATTER?
HON. DONALD C. JAMIESON (MINISTER OF INDUSTRY, TRADE
AND COMMERCE): WITH RESPECT, I THINK THAT IS HYPOTHETICAL
AT THE MOMENT. WHAT I WAS QUOTING TO THE HON. MEMBER
WAS THE LAW, WHICH INDICATES THAT ANY APPLICANT WHO IS
TURNED DOWN CAN RE-APPLY. WHETHER THE APPLICANT IN
QUESTION WISHES TO RE-APPLY IS SOMETHING WHICH THAT
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COMPANY ALONE CAN DECIDE. END QUOTE.
PORTER

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